

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 144781

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ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 SSO-00 L-02 INR-10 INRE-00 SP-01

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DRAFTED BY AF/C:APALMER:CHG

APPROVED BY AF - AMB. EASUM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 144781

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: GB, BGEN

SUBJECT: DC-8 FOR GABON

FOR MCKESSON FROM EASUM

1. TO ASSIST US IN OUR CONSIDERATION OF SECOND DC-8 SALE QUESTION, DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASSESSMENT OF PRESIDENT BONGO'S PROBABLE REACTION IF USG WERE TO INFORM HIM THAT SALE OF SECOND PLANE MIGHT PROCEED IF HE GIVES THE FOLLOWING SPECIFICALLY STATE ASSURANCES OVER HIS PERSONAL SIGNATURE:

SECOND PLANE WOULD NOT IN ANY WAY BE USED IN RHODESIAN TRADE, EITHER DIRECTLY, OR BY MAKING POSSIBLE A TRANSFER OF SPARE PARTS FOR FIRST PLANE, OR BY TRANS-SHIPING CARGO OR PASSENGERS TO OR FROM RHODESIA.

2. WHAT WOULD HIS REACTION BE TO REQUEST FOR ALL OF ABOVE ASSURANCES PLUS HIS PROMISE TO REMOVE FIRST PLANE FROM RHODESIAN TRADE, OR FROM ANY ACTIVITY WHICH PROMOTES OR SUPPORTS SUCH TRADE? IF BONGO SAYS HE CANNOT CONTROL PLANE, HOW WOULD HE REACT IF ASKED TO CANCEL PLANES GABONESE ---
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PAGE 02 STATE 144781

REGISTRY AND THEREFATER DENY IT LANDING AND OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS

3. IF BONGO WILLING TO ACCEPT ABOVE CONDITIONS, WHAT WOULD HIS REACTION BE IF WE ADDITIONALLY TOLD HIM RELEASE OF SECOND PLANE WOULD BE DELAYED FOR INDEFINITE PERIOD,

PERHAPS SEVERAL MONTHS, SO WE COULD MONITOR HIS COMPLIANCE WITH REQUEST (2).

4. REPLY SHOULD BE BASED ON INTERNAL EMBASSY ASSESSMENT ONLY. REALIZE WE WILL SOON HAVE OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS THESE MATTERS WITH YOU BUT NEED YOUR LATEST JUDGMENT ON THESE QUESTIONS PRIOR YOUR RETURN.

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